



## OFFICE OF ADMISSIONS

Undergraduate Admissions

P.O. Box 8058 • Austin, Texas 78713-8058 • 512-475-7399 • FAX 512-475-7478

September 15, 2017

Gordon Taylor, Director  
Education Service Center  
400 E. Spring Valley Road  
Richardson, TX 75081-5101

Dear Dr. Taylor:

The President of the University of Texas at Austin, Gregory L. Fenves, recently sent a letter to the Commissioner of Education, Mike Morath, regarding automatic admission to the university for the 2019-2020 academic year. The letter states that the university will automatically admit freshman applicants from Texas high schools who are in the top 6% of their classes.

A copy of the President's letter is enclosed. I would appreciate your assistance in helping to spread the details about automatic admission for the 2019-2020 academic year. Please share the information with educators in your area in any way you feel is appropriate.

Details about automatic admission can be found on our Admission Decisions web page at <http://admissions.utexas.edu/apply/decisions>. Please let me know if you have any questions about the content of the letter or about the university's admissions process.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Susan Kearns".

Susan Kearns  
Director of Admissions

Enclosure



## THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN

---

Gregory L. Fenves, *President*  
110 Inner Campus Drive, G3400 · Austin, TX 78712-3400  
512-471-1232 · [president@utexas.edu](mailto:president@utexas.edu)

September 15, 2017

*Via Interagency Mail*

Mr. Mike Morath  
Commissioner  
Texas Education Agency (TEA)  
William B. Travis Building, Room 2-185  
Agency Code: 701

Dear Commissioner Morath:

Senate Bill 175, passed by the 81st Legislature, modified the “Top 10%” automatic admission program at The University of Texas at Austin. Under SB 175, UT Austin is required to offer automatic admission to “75 percent of the university's enrollment capacity designated for first-time resident undergraduate students in an academic year.”

Section 51.805 (a-2) of the Texas Education Code (TEC) requires the university, in a manner prescribed by the Texas Education Agency (TEA) and not later than September 15 annually, to:

provide to each school district, for dissemination of the information to high school junior-level students and their parents, notice of which percentile ranks of high school senior-level students who qualify for automatic admission under Subsection (a) are anticipated by the institution to be offered admission under Subsection (a-1) during the next school year.

Using data from recent years, the university has determined that automatically admitting students in the top six percent (6%) of their high school graduating class to the 2019 entering freshman class will fill 75 percent of available spaces. As a result, The University of Texas at Austin will automatically admit all eligible 2019 summer/fall freshman applicants who rank in the top six percent (6%) of their high school graduating classes, with remaining spaces to be filled through holistic review.

SB 175, passed in 2009, took effect with the 2011-12 academic year. With one exception, UT Austin has met the 75 percent threshold each year. As you are undoubtedly aware, Texas expects continued growth in the number of high school graduates, which has translated into significant growth in applications for admissions to UT Austin, as well as the number of applicants eligible for automatic admission. According to the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education (WICHE), the number of high school

Mr. Mike Morath  
September 15, 2017  
Page 2

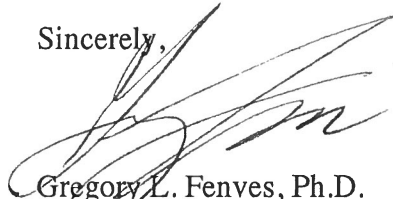
graduates in Texas is projected to increase by almost 23 percent between 2011-12 and 2024-25 (*Knocking at the College Door*, December 2016).

Year	Percentile	% Auto Admit
2011	Top 8%	77%
2012	Top 9%	78%
2013	Top 8%	80%
2014	Top 7%	73%
2015	Top 7%	75%
2016	Top 8%	76%
2017	Top 7%	75%

This information is provided to you in accordance with provisions of SB 175. If you have any questions, or require additional information, please contact Rachelle Hernandez, senior vice provost for enrollment management. UT Austin will send a copy of this letter to the Regional Education Service Center (ESC) executive directors with a request that they assist in the dissemination of the information to all school districts in Texas.

We appreciate your assistance and that of the TEA in disseminating this information to high school juniors and their parents across the state.

Sincerely,



Gregory L. Fenves, Ph.D.  
President

GLF/daw

cc: The Honorable Kel Seliger  
The Honorable J.M. Lozano  
Maurie Mcinnis, Executive Vice President & Provost  
Rachelle Hernandez, Senior Vice Provost for Enrollment Management  
Susan Kearns, Director of Admissions